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Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Soundings

Vol. 26, Issue 7 August 2010

Duwamish River Ecojustice Boat Tour

For decades Seattle's only waterway, the Duwamish River, has suffered a slow oil spill from polluted run-off and toxic chemical dumping. In 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency listed the Lower Duwamish River as a federal Superfund site, naming it as one of the most contaminated sites in the U.S. People who live near the Duwamish, predominately communities of color, are at risk from a toxic stew of chemicals which also endangers salmon, shellfish, eagles, seals and orcas.

Earth Ministry, St. James Cathedral, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle First Baptist Church and Plymouth UCC have joined together to organize a boat tour of the lower Duwamish River narrated by staff of the Duwamish River Cleanup coalition.

On this short trip, our faith communities will join in prayer, learn about the contaminated ecosystems of the waterway, and be updated about advocacy opportunities to protect the only river in the City of Seattle.

Please join Earth Ministry and our downtown religious partners for a faith-based cruise on the Lower Duwamish River from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14. Check-in will be at 11:30.

Reservations are required. Tour cost is $15 per person/60 people maximum. For reservations contact Rachael Ross at St. James Cathedral by phone at 206-903-4629 or email rross@stjames-cathedral.org.

A Word From The Acting Bishop

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."
Deuteronomy 6: 4-7 NRSV

The Rev. Jan Nesse

As I have visited the congregations in our synod over the past nine years, I have discovered a crisis in our churches. No, it has nothing to do with resolutions of the 2009 churchwide assembly. And it doesn't have to do with the economy, either, at least not directly. The crisis in our synod is in youth ministry.

It really caught my attention in this past month as I witnessed the resignations and lay-offs of four more Youth Ministers. Some were moving on to other things partly because of low pay and lack of support for their work, some were "terminated" because of budget cuts. When congregations identify youth ministry as a priority in their self understanding but make it the lowest priority in the budget, there is an inconsistency. Maybe you have observed that inconsistency.

If your church has a healthy, effective ministry to families, children and youth, you have some things to teach the rest of us. You are "bucking a trend" in mainline congregations which have experienced a decline in youth attendance, and concomitantly, in youth ministry.

Even as early as 1996 George Barna, in his *Index of Leading Spiritual Indicators*, recorded what congregational members believe are the things they do best and worst. "Creating programs for teenagers" was listed as the worst. This is a problem. I believe it is a crisis.

Some might like to lay this all at the feet of youth

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A Word From The Acting Bishop

ministers, but I believe it belongs to all of us. Youth ministers are seldom in a position to set the congregation's policy for youth ministry and usually work with various images of what the congregation member expects. Part of the crisis in youth ministry is the expectation that youth ministers can "handle youth ministry." But youth ministry is a task, a calling for all of us.

A synod wide vision for youth ministry is a place to start. What that requires is that all people who care about the future of the church, the faith of our young people and life in the northwest come together to describe a vision, chart a course and commit to make the priority of youth ministry more than a wistful longing or an immobilizing challenge.

So a ***Youth Ministry Summit*** will be held at Holy Spirit in Kirkland from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, with lunch served. Registration information will be sent to your congregation inviting pastors and other *decision makers and vision bearers* to participate. Watch for it and be there!

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Deadline for copy of the September 2010 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, August 4.
Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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Affordable Apartments In Ballard

The Compass Housing Alliance is building 80 affordable apartments in Ballard and will name the facility after the late pastor Nyer Urness. The project is a seven-story, 51,664 square foot, mixed-use building with a green roof. The majority of the first two floors will be dedicated to human service uses. These areas include offices for social workers, addiction counselors, mental health professionals, healthcare providers and employment specialists who will primarily, but not exclusively, serve the building residents. It will be staffed 24-hours a day, with secured access. There are also meeting rooms for support group sessions. Each studio apartment will have a full bathroom and galley kitchen.

Pastor Nyer served as chaplain of the Compass Center from 1989 to 2006. His ministry was at the heart of the Compass community. It is in memory of his gracious spirit that the project is named. The Nyer Urness House will be located at 1753 NW 56th St. in the Ballard community of Seattle. Construction will begin in late 2010. For more information visit www.compasshousingalliance.org.

Sabbatical

For Bishop Boerger

As you have heard, Bishop Boerger will be on sabbatical from July 1 through Sept.30, 2010. He has appointed the Rev. Janice Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, to serve as Acting Bishop during this period. Pastor Nesse will have all the authority to act as the Bishop, except ordinations. Rest assured that during this period the synod office stands ready, as always, to assist rostered leaders and congregations.

While he is gone, Bishop Boerger will not be reading email addressed to boerger@lutheransnw.org and those emails will not be forwarded to Pastor Nesse. Please communicate directly with Acting Bishop Nesse at nesse@lutheransnw.org or with any other member of the synod office.

Glocal Mission Gathering

Connecting Global and Local

What's different about this event?

The ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering brings together experts and resources on global and domestic ministry under one roof, for one weekend, in one convenient location so congregational leaders can build skills you need to be an effective part of God's mission no matter where you serve. Your gifts, shared at this event, will strengthen us together to engage in God's mission everywhere.

Why Attend?

Mission takes place everywhere in the world — including North America, where it influences our ministry every day. By understanding how God's activity is changing the world around us, we can build and develop skills that help us engage, serve, support, learn, and travel more faithfully, globally and domestically. These skills can help you be an effective part of God's mission.

The Global Mission event taking place closest to our synod is Oct. 8 and 9 at West Linn Lutheran Church, West Linn, Oregon (south east of Portland).

Registration is only $35 per person and in only 1-1/2 days, your team will:

Enhance your connections with the worldwide Lutheran family

- Gain practical skills for mission
- Give, receive, and serve more effectively
- Discover how changes in the world are transforming the way churches like the ELCA proclaim and serve
- Lead inviting worship that includes global voices
- Travel internationally in a way that is effective, sustainable, respectful, and cross-culturally sensitive

To reach the planner for this event email sunitha.mortha@elca.org.

Interim Anxiety

by Barbara Sharkey
Member of Faith
Lutheran in Seattle

In January, 2009, when Pastor Nancy Winder pulled into my driveway, I had been pacing the sidewalk for ten minutes. In the previous 29 years she had made many pastoral visits, but she'd never just called up and asked if she could drop by. I was convinced she was coming to deliver some bad news in person.

So, I was greatly relieved when she revealed the purpose of her visit. She had accepted a one-year assignment as the pastor at Holden Village, a place where her ministry had begun. This assignment, which began in the fall of 2009, provided an ideal way for her to ease out of her long relationship with the members of Faith in Seattle and it would force us to wallow along on our own as she would be safely beyond calling distance.

I was so relieved that no one had died, and that she wasn't forced to leave because of personal illness, but my relief lasted about two minutes. Along with many of my church friends, I had looked forward to Pastor Winder not only officiating at my children's weddings but also baptizing the next generation, the babies of the first children she had baptized at Faith almost 30 years ago.

During the next few weeks, a bigger problem became apparent. I was the chair of the parish education committee as well as the coordinator for the elementary program. My committee and I had spent years with Pastor Winder fine-tuning our Sunday School program. What would happen now that she was going? What if the interim or the new pastor came in with all new ideas? I was dreading the transition and call process, as any instability in the congregation would have a huge effect on families. Like the Israelites in the desert, I muttered and complained about the upcoming disruption for most of the spring.

Then one Sunday I walked past the church office and saw several council members talking with Pastor Red Burchfield, and I realized that perhaps he might be our interim. My worries instantly disappeared. Pastor

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Interim Anxiety

Burchfield and I had become acquainted a few years early when he was subbing for Pastor Winder on our St. Francis Pet Blessing Day. Pastor Burchfield unflappably and without rehearsal blessed fish, hamsters, cats, dogs, a snake and, I'm pretty sure, a chicken that showed up that year, too.

Worshipping with Pastor Burchfield and working with him on parish education this past year, I have found him to be sincere, encouraging and uplifting. Most importantly, he encouraged us to take time to mourn the loss of Pastor Winder, while giving us permission to do things in a new way, to create different traditions and to take this opportunity of "change-thrust-upon-us" to discover new directions, while still holding the past close in our hearts and without feeling disloyal.

Change is difficult. In the ELCA, many pastors are nearing retirement age. On paper, the interim process can look bulky, slow and intimidating. People like me want to just get on with it and call someone, anyone, who can pick up the reins and keep our carriage rolling along the same way it has been in the past.

But an interim pastor can give a congregation a much needed excuse to pause for just a moment and to think. Just think. Is everything as swell as we think it is? Are our programs the way we want, or are they that way because of the strengths and weaknesses of the people who have run them for years? Are there people who have wanted to change positions? The interim process provides a chance for all the cards to come out on the table and for new ideas to begin to take shape. The opportunity to stretch and grow, when supported by a compassionate and accomplished interim pastor, can be a wonderful parting gift.

And if you are lucky enough to get an interim who is willing to bless a chicken on the spur of the moment, you're off to a very good start indeed. Thank you Pastor Red Burchfield.

Our Veterans

Edmonds Lutheran Church

The worship service on July 4 at Edmonds Lutheran in Edmonds did not end with the closing hymn. Instead, the congregation was treated to a patriotic slide show that honored 30 men and women who had served in the armed forces of our country, dating from Word War II to the present time.

During visits to congregational members, Nancy Gradwohl, Lay Pastoral Assistant, was fascinated by the stories veterans shared with her and they stirred in her a desire to preserve these memories.

Nancy began by putting out questionnaires inviting congregational members to write down their special memories of their time in the service. The stories of the veterans were collected and presented in a spiral-bound book of approximately 45 pages. Photos, both past and present, were also included. Sue Carlson, office manager, designed the patriotic book cover. Carmen Marshall, a member of Edmonds Lutheran, created the DVD combining the pictures of veterans with spirited music.

These combined efforts resulted in a beautiful presentation and show of appreciation for the men and women of Edmonds Lutheran who have served our country in the military.

During the coffee hours the vets were honored with a special All-American dessert of apple pie and ice cream. They each received "their" book. They also enjoyed looking at a display of war memorabilia, particularly LIFE and TIME magazines covering WWII years.

New President

Trinity Lutheran College in Everett has named John Reed as its next president. Reed had been serving as Chief Executive Officer since September 2009 and began his new role on July 1. An inauguration ceremony is being planned for Saturday, Oct. 16.

3DM Taster Retreat

Join Pastor John LaMunyon, Sammamish Hills, Sammamish, and others to experience a Learning Community focused to help you in advancing God's kingdom from January 24 through 26, 2011.

The 3DM taster is designed to give leaders "a taste" of the range of resources and tools 3DM uses in equipping/resourcing leaders to engage with today's culture with a missional mind set.

The retreat is packed with input and coaching experiences led by experienced practitioners which you can then digest with your team, and other teams around you. You will experience biblically sound teaching, impactful worship, prayer ministry, new relationships, good food, fun and laughter, as well as an opportunity to experience huddle and a "taste" of a Learning Community.

Please watch the two minute story at www.weare3dm.com. For more information and registration please contact Holly at hoc@SHLC.ORG

New FCC Rules

Wireless Microphones

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a new rule that may affect use of some wireless microphones by congregations. The rule bans the use of wireless microphones or similar devices that operate in the 700 MHz Band effective June 12, to avoid interference with fire and police departments now using the band.

Wireless microphones and similar devices that operate in the 700MHz Band must be tuned to another frequency or replaced. Wireless microphones or similar devices that operate outside the 700MHz Band are not affected, nor are microphones and similar devices with cords. Wireless microphones are normally marked with the frequency the devices use. Violations of the rule may result in fines, confiscation of the equipment, or criminal sanctions, including imprisonment. The FCC announcement, including access to a list of microphones affected, is at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/ .

What's On Our Plate?

The Ethics of Eating

Explore the connection between what we eat and how it effects the rest of the world at an event called *What's On Our Plate? The Ethics of Eating*. The event will be held on October 15 and 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church & Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Jim McDonald, Managing Director of Bread for the World. A youth track will also be available for high school students. For more information, contact Kristie Neklason at hunger@lutheransnw.org. The event is sponsored by Southwestern Washington Synod, Northwest Washington Synod, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Pacific Lutheran University and the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

Worship Renewal Grants

Calvin Institute for Christian Worship

The Worship Renewal Grants Program of the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship fosters well-grounded worship renewal in congregations and worshiping communities throughout North America.

Made possible through the generous support of Lilly Endowment Inc., these grants serve to stimulate thoughtful and energetic work for worship that exhibits renewed creativity, theological integrity, and relevance.

Grants are awarded once a year. Proposals for 2011 will be accepted between December 1, 2010 and January 11, 2011. They note, "While we are interested in receiving a wide range of proposals, we are especially interested in projects related to intergenerational worship practices and projects related to the Psalms."

It's not too early to begin planning and writing a proposal if you have a project in mind! More information is available at www.calvin.edu/worship/grants/wrgp.php.

Ministry and Money

Annual Stewardship Event

It's time to gather a team from your congregation to attend our annual stewardship training event on Saturday, Sept. 25, at St. Luke's Lutheran, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, 425-822-7907.

This year the Synod's Stewardship Committee is excited to welcome a husband and wife team: Philip and Janet Jamieson, who are co-authors of the 2009 book ***Ministry and Money.***

Janet is Associate Professor of Business and Accounting at the University of Dubuque, Iowa. As a CPA she has 13 years of public accounting experience and has consulted with clergy and congregations.

Philip is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, a PC-USA seminary. Ordained in the United Methodist Church, he has more than 20 years of pastoral experience.

Who will benefit from this training? Pastors, Stewardship Leaders, Finance Team Members, Treasurers and all others who want to see your mission and ministry on solid financial footing.

In addition to stewardship, topics will include budgeting as an expression of God's mission, financial transparency in the church, understanding financial reports, and developing a theology of money.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the training will end by 2:30 p.m. The cost is $20 per person and includes lunch.

To register in advance or for more information, please contact Pastor Laurie Jones at 206-784-1306 or pastorlaurie@bflcs.org.

Please invite your ecumenical friends, especially Presbyterian and United Methodist, to also consider attending.

Triennial Gathering of Women in the ELCA

by Hilde Glore
Triennial Gathering
Promoter for NW
WA Synod

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206-367-5199

The Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA will be held from ssss in Spokane, WA. There is an early bird registration discount. Early Bird registration is $299.00 if you register between September 15 and December 31, and $ 325.00 after January 1, 2011. And if you register by December 15, your name will be entered in a drawing for special prizes, including complimentary hotel rooms and meals.

Who is invited to this gathering? All women of the ELCA. You are encouraged to come and connect with Lutheran sisters, escape the busyness of our lives for a few days, rejoice in our Christian faith and respond to the call for hands-on service.

Just a glimpse at some of the keynote speakers and program participants:

- Author **Nora Gallagher** whose most recent book is a memoir about communion titled *The Sacred Meal.*
- Peace Activist (and a Lutheran) **Leymah Gbowee** who is the central figure in the documentary *Pray the Devil Back to Hell.*
- **The Rev. Susan Briehl** will preside at the opening Thankoffering service and also present a workshop with her daughter Mary Emily.
- **Jane Redmont,** professor of religion at Guilford College (Greensboro, N.C.) and author of the book *When in Doubt, Sing: Prayer in Daily Life .*
- The Emmy-winning documentary *A Walk to Beautiful* will be shown.
- Introductions to both the summer *2011 Bible study and the 2011-2012 Bible study on the Gospel of Mark* will be presented by the writers

Here 'n There

- **Could your next potluck end world hunger?** — More than a billion people around the world are hungry. Many struggle to live on less than $1 per day. What if we could join together to make a difference in the fight against hunger? What if it started at your next potluck? A Month of Potlucks is a movement started by two Lutheran pastors. The idea is simple. Host a potluck, include a talk or activity about hunger and take a collection for ELCA World Hunger. Register your potluck and find great resources at www.amonthofpotlucks.org.
- **Young adults to serve around the globe** — Do you recognize any of the 44 people who will gather in August to prepare for a year of service with the *Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM)* program? Pray for these young missionaries by name: http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand/post/2011-yagms-named-04062010/.
- **Board of Pensions News** — Take the *Mayo Clinic Health Assessment* by September 30 and be eligible for $450 to help pay for approved medical expenses. Visit www.elcawellness.org. *ELCA health plan contribution rates for 2011* will be announced in August after approval by our board of trustees. Online rate charts will be updated at this time.
- **Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly begins this month (July 20 - 27) in Stuttgart, Germany** — Join your thoughts and prayers with Lutherans from around the world. Follow the schedule. Sing the hymn. Study the Bible. Read the news. Live out the theme. Find resources for this and more at www.elca.org/lwf and click the links under The Lutheran World Federation Eleventh Assembly in the middle of the page. The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, is president of LWF.

Within Our Family

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

† **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council

† **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita

† **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad,** St. Peter, Clinton

† **Diane Johnson, Associate in Ministry,** Lord of Life, Renton

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda

† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We Pray For:

† **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.),** age 100, died on June 30th at Columbia Lutheran Home, Seattle. (Please see page 15.) Cards may be sent to the family in care of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, 7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle WA 98103-4628.

† Dick Coffman, 91, father of **the Rev. William Coffman,** Oregon Synod, died on June 17. The memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on July 24, at Kent Lutheran Church, 336 Second Ave. S., Kent. Cards may be sent to: Bill and Cathy Coffman, 905 N Harbor Drive No 13, Portland, OR 97217

Prayers of Celebration:

† August d'Ambruoso was born June 24, 2010, to **Pastor Abby and Will d'Ambruoso,** Faith Lutheran in Seattle. Cards may be sent to: The d'Ambruoso Family, Faith Lutheran Church, 8208 - 18th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

† The installations of **Laurin Vance** at Burlington Lutheran in Burlington on August 8; and **Matthew Maas** at Gloria Dei in Lynnwood on August 29.

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Prayers:

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting**, we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for congregations that are in transition. We pray for rostered leaders who also are in transition, such as relocating or retirement. We pray for our companion synods in Russia and Ethiopia. We continue to pray for those in Haiti. We pray for all those affected by the oil crisis on the Gulf Coast. We pray for Afghanistan and Iraq, and all countries in turmoil. We pray for our country and the world during the continued financial crisis. We pray for peace!

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Within Our Family

Norris Willman Stoa

The Rev. Norris Willman Stoa (ret.) passed away on June 30, 2010 with his family at his side.

Stoa was born on February 22, 1910 near Buxton, N.D. He graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, and Luther Seminary, St. Paul. In 1934 he was ordained at North Prairie Church in Parshall, N.D. and married Martha Marie Jordahl in July 1936. He served Bethlehem Lutheran in Morris, Ill, from 1944 to 1955. He accepted a call to Denny Park in Seattle and served there from 1955 to 1974. During retirement, Stoa began a new career as a chaplain to seafarers coming to the Port of Seattle and he did this for the next 19 years. His wife, Martha, passed away in 2000. In his 90th year, Stoa published a book called *My 90-Year Odyssey.* He is survived by three children (Martha, Eunice and Philip), many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Memorials can be made to Phinney Ridge in Seattle, to the Stoa Memorial Fund for International Students at Trinity Lutheran College, or Holden Village.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Deaths		
Norris Stoa	Seattle, WA	6/30/2010
Calls Accepted		
Tor Berg	First Evangelical, Bothell	6/27/2010
Justin Johnson	Prince of Peace, Spokane	8/1/2010
Coe Hutchison	Grace, Port Townsend	7/1/2010
Matthew Maas	Gloria Dei, Lynnwood	7/1/2010
Drahomir Oslik	Shepehrd of the Hills, Issaquah	6/21/2010
Laurin G Vance	Burlington, Burlington	8/1/2010
Installations		
Tor Berg	First, Bothell	7/11/2010
Christopher Hogstad	Light of the Cross, Bothell	7/18/2010
Matthew Maas	Gloria Dei, Lynnwood	8/29/2010
Drahomir Oslik	Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah	7/25/2010
Suzanne J Paulus	First, Mount Vernon	6/19/2010
Laurin Vance	Burlington, Burlington	8/8/2010
Ordinations/ Commissionings/ Consecrations		
Coe Hutchison	Trinity, Lynnwood	6/22/2010
Matt Maas	Christ Lutheran, St. Paul, Minn	6/19/2010
Suzanne J Paulus	First, Mount Vernon	6/19/2010
Retirements		
John Clauson	The Hearthstone, Seattle	7/1/2010
Mark Reitan	Trinity, Lynnwood	10/1/2010
Transfers in/out of Synod		
Tor Berg	From E.6/1/2010 WA-Idaho Synod	6/27/2010
Justin Johnson	To Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod	8/1/2010
Drahomir Oslik	From NE Pennsylvania Synod	6/21/2010

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	I	John O'Neal, Pastor
Ferndale, Christ	PR	TR	Christen Anderson, Interim
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Paul D. Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	I	Linda Larson, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	I	Karen Hanson, Interim
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Central	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	I	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process